

VISUAL 34.1

WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE

1. World War II changed the role of women in the U.S. labor force, military and civilian.
 - More than 200,000 women entered the military by joining service units such as the Women's Army Corps.
 - Women also entered the civilian labor force in unprecedented numbers. In 1940, 28 percent of women participated in the labor force; by 1944, the percentage had grown to 36 percent.
 - Popular songs and posters portrayed "Rosie the Riveter" as a patriot, a hard-working woman who supported the war effort and helped to protect soldiers and sailors by keeping the supply of war materials flowing.
2. During World War II, the percentage of employed women increased. What is less well known is that, at the same time, the unemployment rate among women also increased. How could this be?

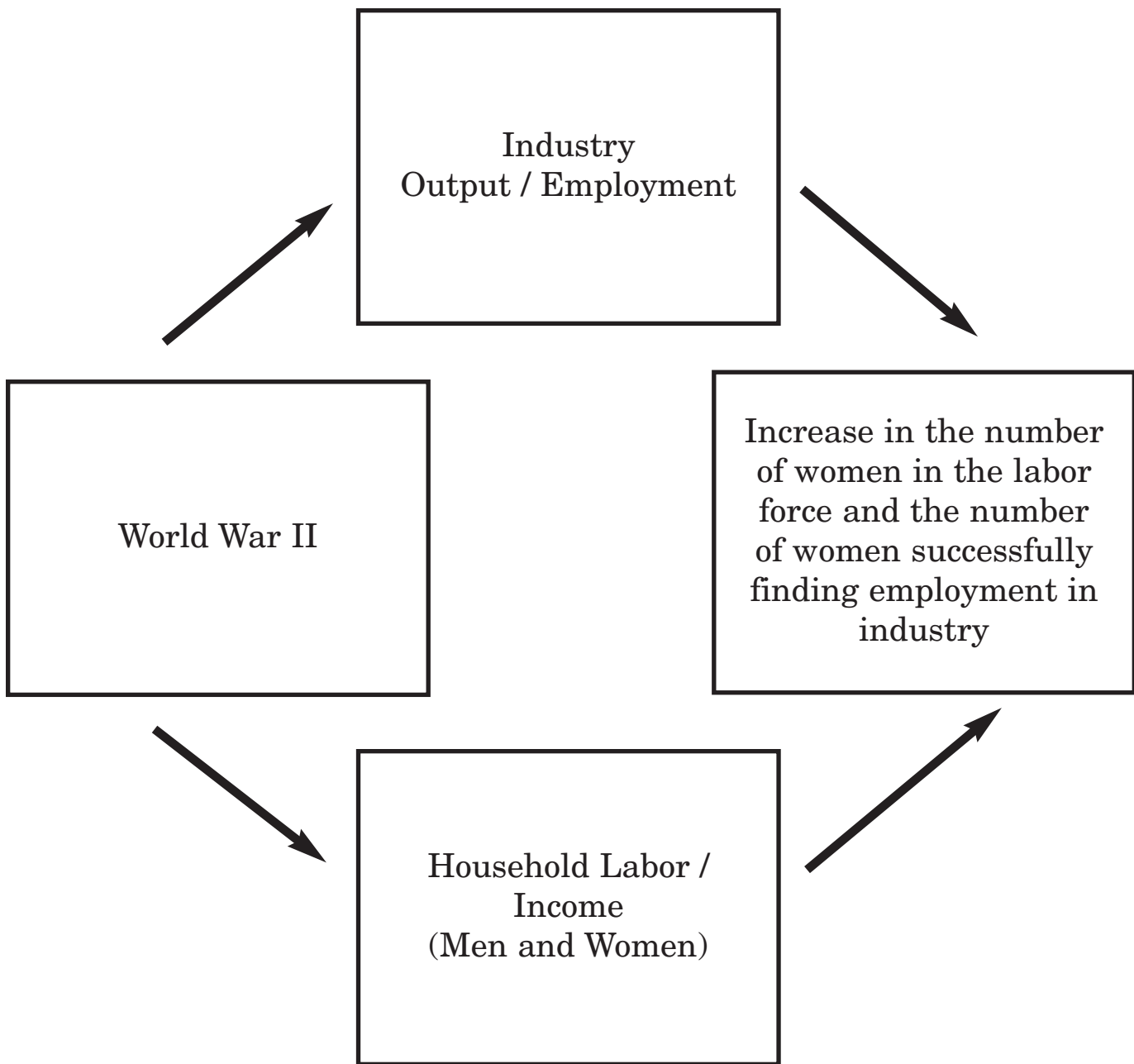
VISUAL 34.2

DEFINITIONS OF LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

- Today, the civilian labor force is composed of the number of people aged 16 years and older who are not in the armed forces and are employed or seeking employment.
- Before 1949, the age minimum was 14 years.
- Employed people are people with jobs.
- Unemployed people are individuals who are actively seeking jobs but cannot find them.
- The unemployment rate is the percentage of the civilian labor force that is unemployed.

VISUAL 34.3

**CAUSE AND EFFECT RELATIONSHIPS: WORLD WAR II
AND ITS IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE U.S. ECONOMY**



VISUAL 34.4
U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT, 1940-1947

Year	Unemployment Rate
1940	14.6
1941	9.9
1942	4.7
1943	1.9
1944	1.2
1945	1.9
1946	3.9
1947	3.9

Source: Economic Report of the President, 1995 to the Present, Table B-35 Civilian Population and Labor Force, 1929-2004.

VISUAL 34.5

LABOR FORCE DATA ON WOMEN, 1940-1947

Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 14 years old and over by sex. Annual averages, 1940-47.

Year	Women as a percent of total...			
	Population	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed
1940	50.4	25.4	25.1	27.0
1941	51.0	26.2	25.8	29.5
1942	52.3	28.6	28.2	35.3
1943	55.0	33.7	33.4	46.7
1944	56.3	35.1	34.9	47.8
1945	56.3	35.3	35.2	40.4
1946	52.2	29.2	29.5	20.7
1947	51.4	28.1	28.2	25.5

Source: Current Population Survey, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-50, No. 2 and 13.